FROM THE BOOKSHELF #144 JUNE 8, 1976
DAN NOBLE

"GROWING UP AT THIRTY-SEVEN" BY JERRY RUBIN

ANNCR: THE VOICE OF AMERICA BRINGS YOU NOW ANOTHER IN THE SERIES FROM THE BOOKSHELF -- A SERIES IN WHICH WE REPORT ON BOOKS AMERICANS ARE READING. TODAY, OUR REPORT IS FROM DAN NOBLE AND OUR BOOK IS ENTITLED GROWING UP AT THIRTY-SEVEN, BY JERRY RUBIN, PUBLISHED BY M. EVANS AND COMPANY. AND NOW HERE IS YOUR BOOK EDITOR ----------.

EDITOR: IN THE NINETEEN SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES, JERRY RUBIN WAS A LEADER -- TO SOME A HERO -- OF THE YOUTH MOVEMENT IN AMERICA. HE WAS AT THE PINNACLE OF HIS CAREER, BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED, AS HE DESCRIBES IN THE OPENING OF HIS BOOK.

VOICE: "IN 1970, AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-TWO, I HAD EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I WANTED IN LIFE. I WAS A LEADER IN A POWERFUL POLITICAL MOVEMENT STRUGGLING TO TRANSFORM OUR COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONS. I LOVED AND ENJOYED THE LOVE OF A WARM WOMAN. I HAD WRITTEN A BEST-SELLING BOOK AND WAS A FOLK HERO OF REBELLION TO YOUNG PEOPLE. MY LIFE WAS EXCITING, INVOLVED, RELEVANT. I HAD SATISFIED ALL MY CHILDHOOD DREAMS. AND THEN: CRASH."

EDITOR: JERRY RUBIN TOOK PART IN SOME OF THE FIRST ANTI-WAR PROTESTS IN AMERICA. HE WAS AN ACTIVIST IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA IN NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE. THEN HE HELPED TO ORGANIZE A MARCH ON THE PENTAGON IN NINETEEN SIXTY-

EDITOR: (CONT'D) SEVEN. AND, IN AUGUST NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT JERRY RUBIN WAS IN CHICAGO DURING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S NATIONAL CONVENTION. HE WAS THERE NOT AS A DELEGATE BUT AS A LEADER OF THOUSANDS OF YOUTHFUL PROTESTORS WHO GAINED WORLD HEADLINES AFTER THEIR CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE POLICE. FOR EIGHT LONG YEARS JERRY RUBIN WAS BUSY NIGHT AND DAY IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE HELPED DEVELOP A STYLE OF SO-CALLED GUERRILLA POLITICAL THEATER IN THE STREETS, AND HE WAS A FOUNDER OF THE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL PARTY, BETTER KNOWN AS "YIPPIES."

BUT, AS JERRY RUBIN WRITES:

VOICE: "FOR YEARS I HAD SUCCESSFULLY MANIPULATED THE MEDIA TO SERVE THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT. NOW I FOUND MYSELF A VICTIM OF THE MEDIA: PEOPLE SAW ME AS CRAZY, DANGEROUS, VIOLENT, INSANE. THE IMAGE WAS DRIVING ME MAD, UNTIL I REALIZED THAT I BELIEVED IT TOO. AS LONG AS I BELIEVED I WAS A REVOLUTIONARY HERO, I WOULD CRITICIZE MYSELF FOR NOT FULFILLING MY OWN SELF-IMAGE."

VOICE: TIME MARCHES ON. ONE DAY IN 1972 RUBIN FOUND HIMSELF OUT OF THE YOUTH MOVEMENT. IT WAS THE ULTIMATE IRONY FOR A PERSON WHO HAD HELPED POPULARIZE THE SLOGAN, "DON'T TRUST ANYONE OVER THIRTY," TO FIND HIMSELF ADVANCING TOWARD MIDDLE-AGED AND NO LONGER TRUSTED BY THE YOUNG.

HE RECALLS: /

OPT

VOICE: "IT WASN'T THE FBI, CIA OR PENTAGON THAT SCORED THIS VICTORY OVER 'THE LEADERS OF THE LEFT.' WE WERE EATEN ALIVE FOR BREAKFAST BY OUR OWN... IT MAY HAVE BEEN A NECESSARY DESTRUCTION SINCE WE WERE OUT OF TOUCH WITH OUR PEOPLE, BUT IT WAS DONE IN ANGER, NOT LOVE." /

OPT

EDITOR: RUBIN CAME TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOVEMENT OF THE SIXTIES -- THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT, THE FLOWER CHILDREN, THE ROCK MUSIC -- WAS ALL PART OF A "WAVE OF HISTORY THAT MADE ITS SPLASH AND SETTLED INTO THE RESTLESS WATERS." THE MOVEMENT, HE THINKS, HAS BECOME PART OF THE FLOW. MORE WAVES AND FLOWS WILL FOLLOWS. HE SAYS: "TODAY THE 1960'S RADICAL MOVEMENT IS SOMETIMES DISMISSED AS A FLAPPER PERIOD OF EXTREMISM AND CRAZINESS." AS RUBIN NOTES, THE ONE-TIME LEADERS DISAPPEARED "ONCE THEIR PUBLIC IDENTITIES FELL APART." TO SURVIVE, RUBIN TOLD HIMSELF THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE. SO FIRST HE CHANGED HIS PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. HE MOVED FROM NEW YORK CITY TO SAN FRANCISCO. THEN HE TURNED TO THE SPIRITUAL PATH AND SPENT THE NEXT FEW YEARS LOOKING INWARD.

FINDING OUT WHO HE REALLY WAS WAS DONE IN A TYPICALLY JERRY RUBIN WAY. HE TRIED EVERYTHING. FROM 1971 TO 1975, HE TELLS US HE VENTURED "INTO EVERYTHING FROM BIOENERGETICS TO YOGA TO PSYCHOTHERAPY."/HE TRIED ALL THE FADDISH PSYCHOLOGIES AVAILABLE: GESTALT THERAPY, MASSAGE, JOGGING, HEALTH FOODS, MEDITATION, EXPANDING

OPT

EDITOR: (CONT'D) CONSCIOUSNESS, EXERCISES. ALL THESE WERE STOPS ON HIS JOURNEY TO SELF-DISCOVERY. BUT HAS JERRY RUBIN REACHED HIS DESTINATION? HE TRIES TO ANSWER THE QUESTION THIS WAY:

VOICE: "IN THE 1960'S WE POSTPONED ALL QUESTIONS ON PERSONAL GROWTH UNTIL AFTER THE REVOLUTION. BUT REVOLUTION IS ONLY AS HIGH AS THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE IT. I HAD EXPECTED THE REVOLUTION APOCALYPTICALLY, BUT HAVE SINCE DISCOVERED THAT REVOLUTION IS AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. I AM ALSO A PROCESS...PEOPLE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THEIR BODIES AND SOULS CANNOT MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE."

EDITOR: FOR THOSE WHO WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ACTIVIST YOUTH OF THE SIXTIES, WHAT THEIR PRESENT TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS ARE LIKE, JERRY RUBIN'S BOOK PROVIDES SOME REVEALING ANSWERS.

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO A REPORT ON GROWING UP AT THIRTY-SEVEN BY JERRY RUBIN. AND NOW AN INVITATION TO JOIN US NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA WILL BRING YOU ANOTHER REPORT ON ONE OF THE MANY BOOKS AMERICANS ARE CHOOSING... FROM THE BOOKSHELF.

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